

ALGONQUIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that all members of the Music Program will:

1. Be courteous and respectful of their environment and of the people around them, refraining from the use of gum, food or cell phones in class.
2. Have respect for the composers, poets, and performers whose creative expressions are being experienced, rehearsing and performing with an attempt to represent the work with integrity and to one's fullest potential.
3. Come to class prepared for the work at hand with music, pencil and an attitude open to learning, marking scores, taking notes and completing written assignments, developing the physical habits and deportment that will allow the group to reach its fullest potential.
4. Take responsibility for one's own actions or inaction, making needed corrections to one's behavior as necessary.

GRADING POLICY

Academic credit and grades are awarded in all ensembles. Honors credit is earned in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Orchestra. The goals of the music program at Algonquin are ongoing and involve the daily improvement of technical skills, critical thinking and analytical skills, ear training, sightreading, and mature musical interpretation. This is achieved through the rehearsal process and the performance of a wide variety of instrumental literature. Along with the musical skills that students are expected to learn comes a tremendous opportunity to understand the responsibility that each member has to the entire group performance.

The following is an outline of considerations of the music department in awarding grades to students:

30% - Attendance at all regularly scheduled performances.

Why is concert attendance so important, even though it is after school hours??

Band and chorus are curricular subjects, for which students receive GPA points. The educational benefits of a public performance are an integral part of the curriculum that cannot be provided during the school day and cannot effectively be recreated or "made up" afterwards. Students who do not attend the performance miss completely the measurements of the ability to utilize higher critical skills such as making adjustments in balance and blend, response to audience feedback, and recovery from one's own and other musician's mistakes.

Performances are the exams for music students, and although some make-up credit could be earned some other way, the thrill and satisfaction of successfully presenting music that has taken weeks of work to prepare before a live and appreciative audience cannot be made up. It exists only in that space of time. The unique sound of an ensemble is developed with a certain number and quality of individual parts and is dependent on each student doing his or her part. **YOU WOULD BE SORELY MISSED!**

Attendance at all concerts is required. In the event of a conflict with the concert calendar:

- Written notification of the conflict must be submitted via parent or guardian at least 2 weeks in advance of the event.
- If the reason for the proposed absence is deemed excusable by the director, the student will be assigned a make-up assignment to earn credit.

- Unexcused absences will result in complete loss of credit for that particular performance grade, and no make-up assignment is possible.
- Missing a concert due to illness will require written notification from a parent or guardian, and the student will be responsible for a make-up assignment.

All changes to the ARHS Fine & Performing Arts Schedule will be posted on the bulletin boards in the band and chorus rooms, and on the band and chorus websites. Students and parents should bookmark and check both websites regularly.

<http://web.nsboro.k12.ma.us/algonquin/chorus/>

<http://www.arhsband.com>

20% - Attendance at all rehearsals, including evenings and after school when called for.

Absence is reason enough to be dropped from the ensemble.

If you do have to miss a rehearsal, either during the day or after school, you must make arrangements to get the material missed before the next rehearsal. You must report to rehearsal on time, and with all of your materials, remain an engaging and active participant, and not be disruptive to the rehearsal process. The success of all music ensembles is dependent on the participation of every member of the group.

30% - Individual practice and preparation. This is evaluated constantly during rehearsals and sectionals.

Students are expected to have their own equipment in working order in each rehearsal. *This includes reeds, valve oil, snare sticks, tuners, warm up books, pencils, music folder, etc.*

All woodwind and brass players are required to have a working tuner on their stand at every rehearsal.

When necessary, students may be asked to make an appointment with their ensemble director after-school to perform prepared music ensemble music or have an extra-help session. Written work will also be graded in this category.

Remember that every time a section is asked to play alone, each individual's performance is being tested. Individual ability and effort can be judged quickly during each rehearsal. The success of ALL Instrumental Music ensembles is dependent on the participation of every member of the group.

20% - Attitude and cooperative spirit; rehearsal skill, enthusiasm, dedication, pride, and positive leadership.

It is the student's obligation and responsibility to return all music, instruments, and uniforms at the end of each school year. All materials are expected to be cared for appropriately throughout the school year. Students issued school-owned instruments will be held responsible for repairs needed for anything beyond normal "wear and tear" and must submit a completed loan contract.

CONCERT DRESS INFORMATION

The goal of concert dress is to look professional. By dressing in a uniform, conservative style, we show respect for the music, for our audience, and we are taken more seriously. The audience should focus on the music, not on your clothes. Wearing appropriate concert attire is part of your performance at the concert.

Mandatory Concert Attire is as follows:

You should wear all black - shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, and shoes. No navy, dark gray, or other dark colors. We are looking for a formal look. You should look conservative and a little dressed up. Tri-M members are encouraged to wear their Tri-M pins!

Men: Black long-sleeve button-down shirt, black neck-tie, black slacks, black socks and shoes.

Women: An ankle-length skirt, black, full length dress slacks, or black dress is required. This is important because we sit on a stage that is above the audience. Wear a nice, long-sleeved or three-quarter sleeve black button-up blouse.

Tank tops or short-sleeves are not permitted. Make sure the top is long enough to fully cover you. There should be absolutely no stomach, cleavage, back, or other unnecessary skin showing. Therefore, make sure that shirts are long enough, bottoms are high enough, and the neckline is modest enough. Underwear is not outerwear. Wear a black dress shoe. Please be sure that it is a dress shoe, not a sandal, boot, etc. Heels should be two inches or less. Also, be certain that the entire shoe is black: no cork bottoms, colored designs, or any other dark colors. We suggest neutral, conservative pantyhose (sheer black). No white or colored socks, even if you think they don't show.

ENSEMBLE REP INFORMATION

In collaboration with NSMA, every music ensemble at Algonquin will have a volunteer parent liaison or representative. The purpose of this program is:

- to foster better communications between the music faculty and parents of music students.
- to open up communication between parents.
- to support our music program most effectively, including students, their families and faculty

Please share the desired email address(es) you would like added to the group ensemble rep email list to the course expectation sheet sign-off form.

Let's Have A Great Year!

Mrs. Collins & Mr. Vincent

